



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
Malone C. et al.)	Examiner: DINH, T. T.
Serial No.: 09/932,529)	Art Unit: 2827
Filed: August 17, 2001)	
For: DAUGHTER-CARD)	
STRUCTURAL SUPPORT)	

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENTS AND REMARKS

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed October 2, 2002, please consider the following remarks and enter the following amendments.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendments. The attachment is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amendments:

15. The assembled substrate of claim 13, wherein said daughter-card support further comprises one or more electrical connections to said motherboard substrate.

REMARKS

Claim 15 is amended herein. No new matter is added as a result of the claim amendments.

Claim Objections

The Examiner requests that "a daughter-card printed circuit board" on line 10 of Claim 13 be changed to state "said daughter-card printed circuit board." Applicants respectfully note that there is no antecedent basis for "a daughter-card printed circuit board" of line 10, and therefore Applicants respectfully assert that the change requested by the Examiner is not required.

112 Rejections

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 15 is amended herein to correct the cited deficiency. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is traversed.

102 Rejections

Claims 13, 15 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cheng et al. ("Cheng;" US 5,901,038). The Applicants have reviewed the cited reference and respectfully submit that the present invention as recited in Claims 13, 15 and 19-20 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Cheng.

The Examiner is respectfully directed to independent Claim 13, which recites that embodiments of the present invention are directed to "a daughter-card support to structurally support ... daughter-card printed circuit boards ..., said daughter-card support supplying structural

rigidity to a daughter-card printed circuit board with said daughter-card printed circuit board inserted into said daughter-card support" (emphasis added). Claims 15 and 19-20 are dependent on Claim 13 and recite additional limitations.

The Examiner, on page 5 of the instant Office Action, states that a power supply – such as that shown by Cheng – is a daughter-card PCB (printed circuit board). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants respectfully assert that a daughter-card PCB is distinctly different from a power supply, in form and function as well as name. Applicants respectfully note that the words of a claim are to be given their plain meaning, as those of ordinary skill in the art would interpret them. Applicants respectfully submit that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not equate a power supply and a daughter-card PCB. In fact, the Cheng reference itself makes the distinction between a power supply and a PCB. The Examiner is respectfully directed to column 1, lines 13-18, of Cheng. There, Cheng states that a power supply is coupled to a PCB. Quite clearly, Cheng is drawing a distinction between these two elements. Furthermore, Cheng does not show or suggest that a power supply is equivalent to a PCB, or vice versa. The Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to provide a reference supporting the Examiner's statement that a power supply is a daughter-card PCB.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Cheng does not pertain to printed circuit boards, specifically daughter-card printed circuit boards, as recited in independent Claim 13. Cheng only describes a mounting structure for a power supply. Moreover, Applicants respectfully assert that Cheng does not show or suggest use of a power

supply mounting structure as a daughter-card support. Applicants further assert that it is not obvious how the power supply mounting structure of Cheng can be used as a daughter-card support. Clearly, modifications to the power supply mounting structure of Cheng are needed if it is to be used as a daughter-card support. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Cheng lacks any suggestion or description of the modifications needed to use a power supply mounting structure as a daughter-card support.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that Cheng does not show or suggest a daughter-card printed circuit board inserted into a daughter-card support, providing rigidity to the daughter-card, as recited in independent Claim 13. While Cheng discloses a mechanism for locking a power supply onto the frame, this locking mechanism is only applied at a corner of the power supply. Thus, Applicants respectfully contend that the locking mechanism of Cheng specifically, and the power supply mounting structure of Cheng generally, cannot function to provide structural support or rigidity to a component such as a daughter-card printed circuit board.

In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that Cheng does not show or suggest the claimed limitation of "a daughter-card support to structurally support ... daughter-card printed circuit boards ..., said daughter-card support supplying structural rigidity to a daughter-card printed circuit board with said daughter-card printed circuit board inserted into said daughter-card support" as recited in independent Claim 13. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 13 traverses the Examiner's basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and is in condition for allowance. Applicants also respectfully

submit that Claims 15 and 19-20 traverse the Examiner's basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as these claims are dependent on an allowable base claim and recite additional limitations.

103(a) Rejection

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng in view of Wever et al. ("Wever," US 5,805,423). The Applicants have reviewed the cited references and respectfully submit that the present invention as recited in Claim 16 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Cheng and Wever, alone or in combination.

As discussed above, Applicants respectfully contend that Cheng does not show or suggest the present invention as recited in independent Claim 13. Claim 16 is dependent on Claim 13 and recites additional limitations.

Wever does not overcome the shortcomings of Cheng. Applicants respectfully submit that Wever, alone or in combination with Cheng, does not show or suggest the claimed limitation of "a daughter-card support to structurally support ... daughter-card printed circuit boards ..., said daughter-card support supplying structural rigidity to a daughter-card printed circuit board with said daughter-card printed circuit board inserted into said daughter-card support" as recited in independent Claim 13.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 13 traverses the Examiner's basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and is in condition for allowance. As such, Applicants respectfully

submit that Claim 16 traverses the Examiner's basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected Claims.

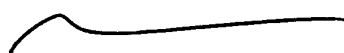
Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 13, 15-16 and 19-20 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO LLP

Date: 11/22/02



John P. Wagner, Jr.
Reg. No. 35,398

Two North Market Street
Third Floor
San Jose, California 95113
(408) 938-9060